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"New" ATA,
Ronella Tjin Asjoe-
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forward to
the challenges



"Our girl, Ronella Tjin
Asjoe-Croes is coming
home!"

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Catastrophic Australian floods claim first victim



A man wades across a flooded bridge on the Perry River near the town of Gin Gin in northeastern Australia

BUNDABERG, Australia (AFP) – Devastating floods in northeastern Australia claimed their first victim yesterday, with the body of a missing woman recovered as the surging waters continued to rise and a fresh storm loomed.

Emergency officials and police searched through the night by boat and helicopter for the 41-year-old swept from

her car as she tried to cross a swamped causeway in the northern Gulf of Carpentaria region.

Police managed to save three children and another adult from the car but the woman disappeared before they could reach her.

There were fears for another man missing after his fishing boat was swamped Saturday afternoon near Gladstone, at the center of the floods, and witnesses reported seeing a second man swept away in the swamped city of Rockhampton in the state of Queensland.

"These waters are exceptionally fast, they're not to be trifled with and they're not to be taken lightly," said Queensland assistant police commissioner Alistair Dawson.

The weather bureau early today warned Queenslanders to brace for another severe storm, which is forecast to bring "damaging winds, very heavy rainfall, flash flooding and large hailstones", and urged residents to take shelter.

Up to 200,000 people are estimated to have been hit by the floods which have left entire towns under water and cut off many more over an area the size of France and Germany combined, wreaking untold billions in damage to crops and the nation's key mining industry.

Brazil's new president starts work, meets leaders

BRASILIA, Brazil (AFP) – Brazil's new president, Dilma Rousseff, started her first full day in office yesterday with a series of short meetings with world leaders, according to her aides.

Rousseff, who on Saturday took over from her mentor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, was meeting the leaders of Uruguay, South Korea, Portugal, the Palestinian Authority, Cuba and Japan.

She started the bilateral meetings with a face-to-face with Spain's crown Prince Felipe de Asturias after Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez reportedly canceled the meeting and flew back to Caracas.

The leaders were among dignitaries who attended Rousseff's inauguration Saturday, which took place in Brazil's futuristic capital under rainy skies.



Newly sworn-in Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff (L) receives the presidential sash from outgoing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia.

The event was a carefully staged endorsement of continuity, with Rousseff, 63, vowing to maintain Lula's policies that have turned Brazil into an economic and diplomatic

power to be reckoned with.

She wiped away tears as she gave her first national address as president in which she described the "emotion" at seeing her predecessor go.

Egypt top cleric accuses pope of meddling



CAIRO, Egypt (AFP) – Egypt's top Muslim cleric criticised Pope Benedict XVI's call for world leaders to defend Christians as interference in his country's affairs, the official MENA news agency reported.

The call, following a deadly church car-bombing in northern Egypt, was "unacceptable interference in Egypt's affairs," Ahmed al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the oldest Islamic seat of learning, told reporters. "I disagree with the pope's view, and I ask why did the pope not call for the protection of Muslims when they

were subjected to killings in Iraq?" he said at a news conference.

Benedict at a New Year's Mass at the Vatican appealed for the "concrete and constant engagement of leaders of nations" to protect Christians in the Middle East, in what he termed a "difficult mission."

In the wake of rising tension and "especially discrimination, abuse and religious intolerance which are today striking Christians in particular, I once again launch a pressing appeal not to give in to discouragement and resignation," he said.

Tayeb, who renewed his condemnation of the New Year's Eve church bombing which cost 21 lives, said Azhar, the highest institute in Sunni Islam, would form a joint committee with the Coptic Church to resolve disputes between the communities.

The committee, which should begin its work in two weeks, will "discuss reasons for deterioration (in Muslim-Copt ties) and propose appropriate solutions," he said.

Tayeb later met with the head of Egypt's Coptic Church, Pope Shenouda III, at his headquarters in Cairo's St Mark Cathedral.

But several dozen Coptic protesters chanted at Tayeb: "We don't want you" and banged on his car as he left.

Sectarian tensions have mounted throughout the past year, which began with a massacre of six Copts and a Muslim security man outside a church in a village of southern Egypt. Three Muslim men are on trial for that attack.

Copts, who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's 80-million people, complain of discrimination and have been the targets of sectarian attacks.

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DJ Jerrick Clement is always a winner!

Back to Gala party Gold Edition features Most Popular DJ Award



For the second consecutive year, DJ Jerrick Clement was chosen Most Popular DJ in the annual Miniteca Geni competition.

The winners were announced during the fabulous Back to Gala party at Nikky Beach Lounge. He won a Curve 3G Blackberry with a free one-month data package, courtesy of SETAR NV, Aruba's national telecommunications company.

SETAR clients voted for Jerrick prior to the event by sending an SMS to Miniteca Geni.

Most Disciplined was DJ Xavier Dania, also from Miniteca Geni; SETAR N.V presented him a gift certificate. DJ Romien Dijkhoff won two gift certificates, also courtesy of SETAR N.V.

Congratulations to all the winners!



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CEO Director of the “New” ATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, looks forward to the challenges

For those who know her, the reaction to Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, Director of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire, TCB, being named in November to head the newly reorganized and privatized Aruba Tourism Authority, ATA, was “our girl is coming home!”

Ronella, a native of Aruba, aspired to affect the regional tourism industry in a major capacity since her youth, acquiring a Bachelor's Degree in both Marketing Management and Tourism, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. During her tenure at the helm of the TCB since 2005, tourism arrivals to Bonaire achieved their highest level of growth (17%) in 2007; two legacy carriers from the U.S., Continental and Delta, and the Dutch charter carrier ArkeFly commenced service to the island. Other milestones include cruise tourism increased from 50,000 passengers to 250,000 passengers; a new global branding; a new website, www.tourismbonaire.com, in English, Dutch and Spanish; integrating an online and social media strategy into the marketing plan and completion of an extensive 3-year Tourism Awareness Program providing free training to the island's entire population.

“Bonaire was a good school, a wonderful opportunity to test my ideas and to learn,” confides Ronella, “Aruba is another ballgame entirely, the “Major Leagues,” so to speak, and I am thrilled to accept the challenge and be a part of the reorganization of the ATA.” She feels the plan and actions of Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, in establishing a more efficient ATA are “bold and brave.”

Ronella believes Aruba and the ATA has been doing a great job, but there is room for improvement. Marketing practices should be modernized. One example would be making better use of the island's Inter-

net presence. “We have this wonderful program of recognizing our long-time repeat visitors and showing our appreciation. I would like to see their stories and videos of them on our social networking pages such as FaceBook and Twitter. We need to examine all of our marketing practices and devise and implement a more integrated approach.”

Ronella is taking the position of CEO Director of the ATA at some great personal sacrifice; she was married 3 years ago to Bonaire's – at that time – the Minister of Economic and Labor Affairs, Commissioner of Tourism Elvis Tjin Asjoe, who is currently the Commissioner of Tourism and Finance for the island of Bonaire. She will be commuting back and forth between the two islands. “When I heard they were looking for a new head for ATA, I decided at the last minute to submit my resume. After being offered the position, I could not possibly refuse, I felt so honored. Aruba has given me so much, how can I not give back and help my home island to be as successful as possible? I feel it is almost an obligation, but one I welcome.”

Primary in Ronella's thoughts is that the ATA has to “set a tone,” regarding the resident population and their understanding and involvement in what Aruba's tourism entity does. “We need Arubans to feel a part of the process and recognize what the ATA does and how important our work is to the island economy,” she asserts. “We want them to feel confident with our work and proud of what we do. The simple fact is the reorganization



offers us the opportunity to do this, as well as run much more efficiently with far less bureaucracy. Partnering with our tourism private sector, NGO's and other stakeholders is also key to successfully promote Aruba and develop our tourism industry. This is high on the agenda as well”

Her life for the past month has been one intensive planning session after another, as well as providing her input for the reorganization and a change of staff. The new ATA will be comprised of approximately 25 less personnel than previously. “We examined who was there and what we felt we needed. We appreciate the experience of those who have been with the organization for years, but we need them to also embrace new ideas and procedures; they must be multi-disciplined and functioning, while thoroughly professional with the right people in the right place. We feel the new structure will be very empowering. Government has been working hard to, among other, passed the laws to renovate the legal status of the ATA, now we need to simply roll up our sleeves and make it work.”

by Rosalie Klein

Body of Boney M. popstar Bobby Farrel to return to the Netherlands today

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- The body of Boney M. popstar Bobby Farrel will return to the Netherlands today, according to his agent John Seine.

Farrell died of heart failure on Thursday in his hotel room in the Russian city of St Petersburg. He had performed in

concert the previous evening. It is not known when his funeral will be held.

Farrell, who lived in the Netherlands, was a singer, dancer and DJ. In 1976, he joined the German band Boney M with three female singers. In the 1970s the band had inter-

national hits with the songs Sunny, Ma Baker and Rivers of Babylon. Although Farrell was front man of the band, he didn't actually sing. The songs were recorded by the band's German producer, Frank Farian, and Farrell mimed the lyrics.



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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

Senior citizens in San Nicolas love De Suikertuin's 'oliebollen'



The inhabitants of the senior citizens' home in San Nicolas loved their surprise, Dutch traditional 'oliebollen', last Friday. Just as the staff and ambulatory elderly raised their glasses to welcome the new year and say goodbye to the old, the oliebolle arrived. Chef Marjerie of De Suikertuin Restaurant had been frying them during the morning, so they were still fragrant and hot when they were doled out. Maris Stella's Flora de Bie wished her colleagues and the elderly a very happy 2011 before the group outside raised their oliebolle with a cheer.

The oliebolle were a joint donation from De Suikertuin Restaurant in the Wilhelminastraat and Beauty and the Beast - fantasy in jewelry.




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Paseo Herencia provides an end of the year treat for Palm Beach

The crew at Paseo Herencia enjoys sharing end of the year island traditions with the public, and provided a grand celebration for their tenants and loyal following to which all were welcome as their business year came to a close on Friday at 3:00 p.m..

Local group Rincon Boyz had the audience dancing in the aisles as they regaled the gathering with the authentic music of the region; including the beloved "Dande" which marks the New Year. Dande singers go from house to house

personalizing their lyrics from the household snitch, often producing hilarious and sometimes embarrassing refrains. The passing of a hat to reward them for the entertainment is also an indispensable aspect of the ritual.

Also making an appearance to further illuminate the event was veteran Dande King Robert Maduro. The celebration culminated in the greatly anticipated lighting of the pargara by Paseo Herencia management staff Valerie, Vanessa and Jessie. Two million fire-

crackers long, it stretched around Iraisquin Boulevard from one end of the mall to the other, and provided a full ten minutes of smoke and thunder, which is believed will chase away the tired vibes of 2010 to cleanse the shopping center and environs, thus insuring a happy and prosperous 2011 for all.

by Rosalie Klein



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Sci-Tech

Viking wolves return for first solar eclipse



PARIS (AFP) — Two beasts of Norse mythology are set to trouble the skies of northern Europe on Tuesday for the world's first solar eclipse of 2011.

Ancient Viking legends recount that a giant wolf named Skoll chases the Moon, and its brother Hati pursues the Sun -- and if either sinks their teeth into one and holds it back, an eclipse occurs.

For astronomers, though, eclipses are less superstitious affairs, occurring when the Moon swings between the Sun and Earth.

Tuesday's event will be a partial eclipse. This occurs when a fraction of the Moon obscures the Sun, and to those in its shadow a "bite" seems to have been taken out of the solar face.

NASA's veteran eclipse specialist Fred Espenak says that, weather permitting, Western Europe will get a grandstand view at sunrise.

The lunar shadow will fall in the Algerian Sahara at 0640 GMT before flitting northeastwards. In London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Berlin, between two-thirds and three-quarters of the Sun will be darkened at the eclipse's peak.

Scandinavia will be most favoured, especially in northern Sweden where, at 0850 GMT, four-fifths of the Sun will be obscured.

In the Middle East, the Sun will be almost half-obscured when seen from Beirut, Jerusalem and Amman, but more than 60 percent from towns in Turkey.

As the lunar shadow zips to the east, a smaller eclipse will be visible at sunset from central Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and northwest China before the Sun's face is fully restored a few seconds after 1100 GMT.

The eclipse spectacle will run for about two to two and

a half hours, according to the location.

The next partial solar eclipse will be on June 1, visible in eastern Siberia, northern China, Alaska and northern Canada.

Total solar eclipses occur when the Sun, Moon and Earth are all perfectly in line.

By a quirk of celestial mathematics, the Sun is 400 times wider than the Moon, but it is also 400 times farther away. The symmetry means the lunar shadow, or umbra, is just wide enough to cover the face of the Sun.

The last total solar eclipse was on July 11 2010, crossing the Southern Pacific.

The next will be on November 13 2012, crossing parts of Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and South America, says Espenak.

The tale of Skoll and Hati, the descendants of giantesses, is enshrined in 13th-century Icelandic literature, which recounts:

"Skoll is the wolf that to Ironwood

Follows the glittering god,
And the son of Hrothvitr,
Hati, awaits

The burning bride of heaven."

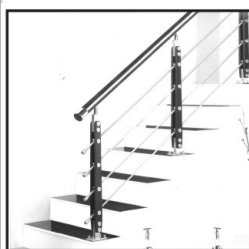
If either wolf caught up with Sun or the Moon, humans must scare the beast off with as much noise as possible in order to restore light, according to Norse beliefs.

Even so, at the twilight of the gods -- a doomsday event known as Ragnarok -- any human intervention would be useless. The two wolves would finally get to devour their booty.

+ Local timings for Tuesday's partial eclipse can be found at

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OHtables/OH2011-Tab01.pdf>. Eclipses should only be observed through special filters or eyewear, to prevent damage to the retina.

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Tablets galore on tap at major CES gadget fest

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Tablet computers will lead a host of "smart" gadgets in the Nevada desert this week at a Consumer Electronics Show (CES) spotlighting slick new devices on the horizon.

CES attendance in Las Vegas should top the 126,000 figure from the annual event last January and the roster of exhibitors has climbed 2,000 to 2,700.

Internet software will fuse with televisions, cars and even household appliances at CES, where an army of tablets will be unleashed to

challenge Apple's winning iPads.

"Certainly the Number One trend will be tablets," said NPD Group analyst Stephen Baker.

"I think every smartphone and PC (personal computer) company will either have one on their show floor; be showing them behind closed doors, or announcing things."

CES organizers said that from 40 to 80 tablets could debut at the event that runs from Thursday through Sunday.

Apple sold more than eight million iPads since the

California company introduced the tablets in April and year-end sales could surpass 10 million.

Tablets being unveiled at CES weren't expected to pose a threat to the iPad, a second-generation version of which is likely to be announced this year.

Android and Windows "won't be right" for tablets for at least a year, giving iPad time to secure its throne against tablets based on the operating software from Google and Microsoft, respectively.

New virus threatens phones using Android

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A virus infecting mobile phones using Google's Android operating system has emerged in China that can allow a hacker to gain access to personal data, US security experts said.

A report this week from Lookout Mobile Security said the new Trojan affecting

Android devices has been dubbed "Geinimi" and "can compromise a significant amount of personal data on a user's phone and send it to remote servers."

The firm called the virus "the most sophisticated Android malware we've seen to date."

"Once the malware is installed on a user's phone, it has the potential to receive commands from a remote server that allow the owner of that server to control the phone," Lookout said.

"Geinimi's author(s) have raised the sophistication bar significantly over and above previously observed Android malware by employing techniques to obfuscate its activities."

The motive for the virus was not clear, according to the Lookout, which added that this could be used for anything from "a malicious ad-network to an attempt to create an Android botnet."

But the company said the only users likely to be affected are those downloading



Ducks and geese eat grain fed by employees Ducks and geese eat grain fed by employees at Kund Park on December 6. The park, a tourist spot located where the Kabul and Indus rivers meet some 100kilometres northwest of Islamabad, lost all its wildlife, including 100 endangered species in this year's flood crisis.



Android apps from China.

The infected apps included repackaged versions sold in China of Monkey Jump 2, Sex Positions, President vs. Aliens, City Defense and Baseball Superstars 2010.

"It is important to remember that even though there are instances of the games repackaged with the Trojan, the original versions available in the official Google Android Market have not been affected," the security firm said.

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Health & Living

Health Briefs:

Spain stubs out cigarettes as new law takes force

MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Smokers stubbed out their cigarettes in tapas bars and restaurants across Spain as one of Europe's strictest anti-tobacco laws came into force on Sunday.

After a one-day amnesty granted for New Year's Day, the new law banning smoking in all bars, restaurants and public places -- including even some outdoor areas -- took effect at the stroke of midnight Saturday.

It was a shock for many Spaniards for whom the cafe culture -- lighting up with a few friends while enjoying a drink and tapas -- has been an essential part of daily life.

Haiti cholera death toll soars past 3,000

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) — Haiti's cholera death toll has soared in recent days with 3,333 people dead, official figures have shown, including a one-day record high for the daily number of fatalities since the outbreak erupted in mid-October.

The new data up to December 26 of 432 more recorded deaths compared with previous Haitian health ministry data marked a major jump in fatalities, although it was unclear exactly when they occurred.

The number of confirmed cholera deaths on December 19 alone was just over 100, the new data showed, far higher than previous peaks around 80 in mid-November.

More recently, the death tolls have returned to previous averages of around 50 new reported deaths each day.

Bonus for washed hands sees drop in disease at Italy clinic

ROME, Italy (AFP) — A clinic in Milan that gives nurses who work with premature babies an annual bonus of 3,000 euros (3,900 dollars) when they wash their hands properly has seen a 30 percent drop in hospital-spread disease.

An total bonus of 200,000 euros (265,000 dollars) is set aside for the 70 nurses at the Mangiagalli clinic who are rewarded with a portion if they respect the strict hygiene rules.

The staff are monitored on closed-circuit televisions while they wash their hands to make sure they use the right technique and spend the necessary amount of time scrubbing.

The level of bacteria on their hands is then controlled before they touch the newborn babies.

"Intensive neonatal treatment is one of the areas with the highest risk of infection," Fabio Mosca, head of neonatology at the clinic, told the Corriere della Sera daily announcing the drop in the spread of disease.

Mosca, who came up with the idea for the clean hands bonus, said high standards of hygiene were essential "because the patients are either premature babies, or seriously ill babies that are immunodepressed."

Lethal bird flu confirmed in S.Korea wild duck

SEOUL, South Korea (AFP) — One of five wild ducks found dead in South Korea this week was confirmed to have been infected with a lethal strain of the bird flu virus as the country battles its first outbreak in over two years.

Tests showed one of the five dead birds found in Sacheon City had been stricken with the H5N1 virus, the agriculture ministry said in a statement.

The same strain -- which poses a risk to humans -- has also been detected in wild birds and their faeces at four other locations across the country since December 7, it said.

South Korea on week-end confirmed the outbreak of bird

flu and more than 100,000 birds have been slaughtered as authorities seek to contain its spread.

Two poultry farms, one in the central city of Cheonan and the other in the southwestern city of Iksan, were confirmed to have been contaminated, the ministry said.

Health authorities placed a quarantine zone over a 10 kilometre (6.25 mile) radius, restricting movements of vehicles and people and carrying out emergency disinfection.

They have also stepped up inspections of wild birds and urged poultry businesses to take extra precautions such as erecting nets around their farms to keep wild birds out.

The avian influenza outbreak is likely to further strain the country's health system, which has already been struggling to contain swine flu and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) cases across the country.

South Korea has been hit by bird flu three times, with the last outbreak in April 2008.

In 2008, South Korea had to cull more than eight million birds to curb the virus, resulting in damages estimated at 200 billion won (194 million dollars at the time).

Four people were confirmed to have been infected with the bird flu virus in late 2003 in South Korea but they showed few symptoms, health authorities said.

British drivers asked to become organ donors



LONDON, England (AFP) — Anyone applying for a driving licence in Britain will be asked if they want to join an organ donation scheme under new proposals to boost the number of donors, it was announced. The system to be piloted from July will make would-be drivers state if they want to sign up to the National Health Service Organ Donor Register or defer a decision until a later date.

Authorities hope it will boost the numbers of those willing to donate vital organs to help others live in the case of their own death. Some 8,000 people in Britain are waiting for a transplant.

Under the current system, applicants can miss out a question on donation when applying for a driving licence.

But the new rules will require that they opt to either

register for donation, state that they have already signed up or state: "I do not want to answer this question now."

At present, just over a quarter of British residents are registered donors, but studies have revealed that a far larger proportion are in favour of donating body parts.

Public health minister Anne Milton said: "Surveys show that a large number of people

in the UK are happy to donate their organs for transplantation but haven't got round to registering.

"We hope that by prompting people into making a decision we can encourage more people to register.

"We also need people to think and talk about organ donation with their families so people know what family members want."



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There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikky Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when visiting

Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Paul have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while providing a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

November is the month to get acquainted with Nikky Beach as they are offering an introductory dinner special of only \$15 for a three-course meal or a different Entrée de Jour each day of the week for only \$10. This is available from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., so you can finish up an afternoon spent on the beach, catch a meal after a dive with the ad-

jacent SCUBA shop, or savor your supper along with one of the most spectacular locations to watch our amazing Aruban sunsets.

Jan and Paul have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

Some extremely interesting items on the menu captured



our interest along with very moderate prices; aside from the November special you can expect an a la carte tab that will add to your enjoyment. Their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that reveals expertise in several notable cuisines; a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 am. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Paul explained they offer a customized Departure Day Package that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal,

drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Paul. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeacharuba.com.

by Rosalie Klein

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Singer Shania Twain weds

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Country pop diva Shania Twain celebrated the New Year by getting married on Saturday, in a private ceremony on the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico, her manager said.

Twain tied the knot with Frederic Thiebaud, two years after splitting with her husband of 14 years Robert Lange -- who allegedly had an affair with Thiebaud's then wife.

The couple announced their



engagement last month, and chose a romantic island location to exchange vows hours after seeing in 2011.

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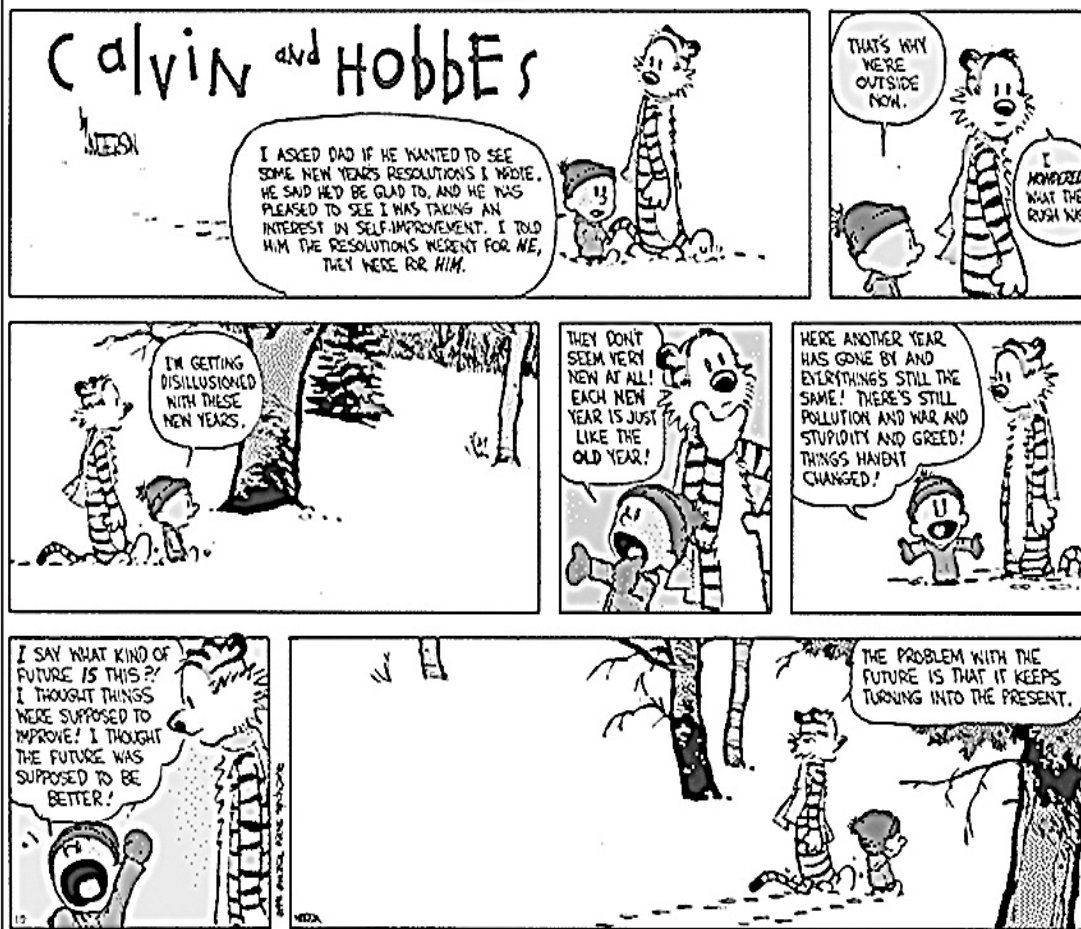
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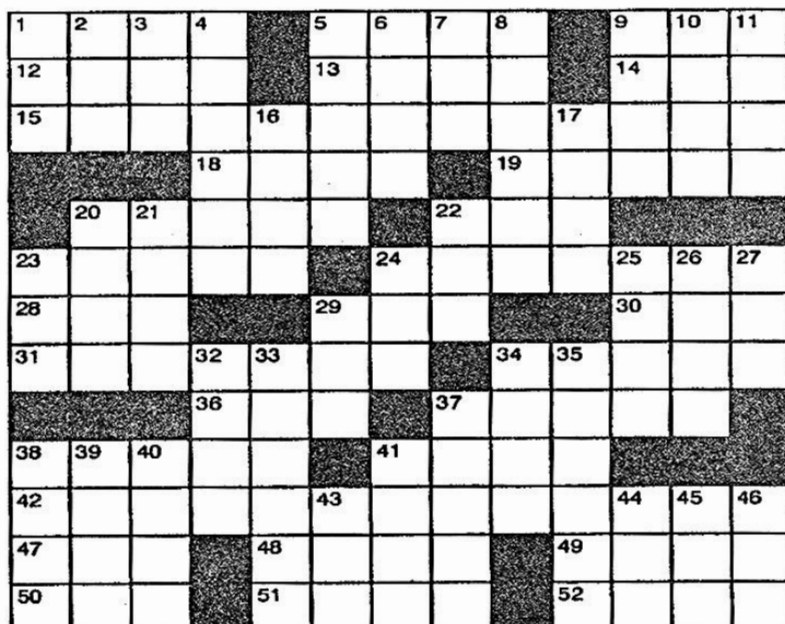
ACROSS

1. I smell ____
5. Mrs. Eddie Cantor et al.
9. Sweet potato
12. Irritated
13. Frosh's senior
14. Fuss
15. Kiddie cookie
18. Bakery output
19. Sheriff's band
20. Agents: suff.
22. Legume
23. Linger
24. Church figures
28. Neighbor of Tenn.
29. Dory propeller
30. Sticky stuff
31. Meals
34. Wall art
36. Building site
37. Come to a point
38. Apple drink
41. Pub missile
42. Summer favorites
47. Countdown start

48. Feminine suffix
49. "The Way We ____"
50. Kind of curve
51. Remick and Majors
52. "____ But the Brave"

DOWN

1. Red ____ beet
2. Pitcher Darling
3. Businessman Onassis
4. Mood
5. Small land masses
6. Holliday and Severinsen
7. Spring mo.
8. Sculpt
9. Eastern oxen
10. Summer drinks
11. Additional
16. Light
17. Layer
20. Tag or white
21. Ambush
22. Links standard
23. Asphalt
24. Dance step
25. Fairy-tale giant
26. Crowd noise
27. Fa's follower
29. Mel ____
32. Sir Guinness
33. Equine hue
34. Painter Chagall
35. Subway heading
37. Brings to heel
38. Quote
39. Chills
40. Suburban retreats
41. July 4, 1776, e.g.
43. Hot time in Paris
44. Modernist: pref.
45. Sea eagle
46. Comprehend



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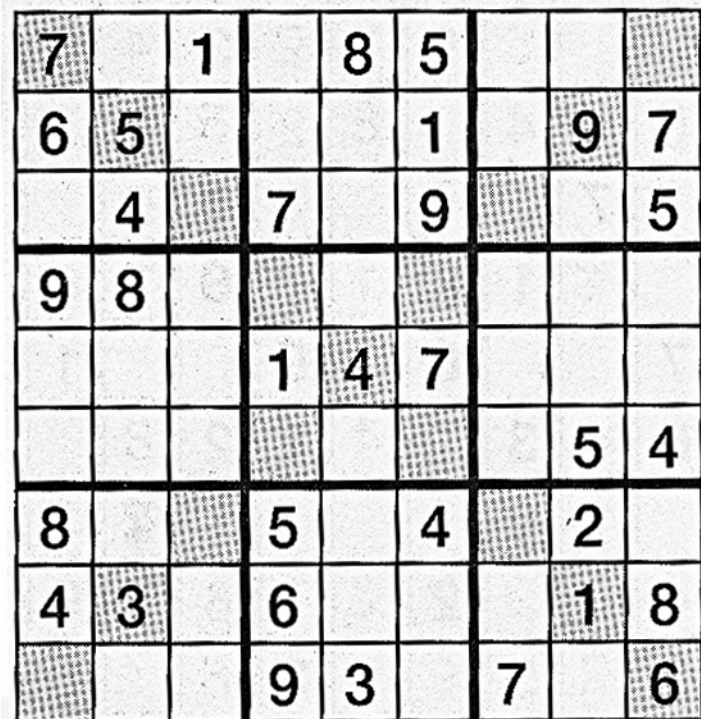
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	4	7	8	6	2	1	5
8	1	9	2	7	9	6	4
3	2	6	4	1	5	7	8
4	5	2	8	6	8	9	1
6	8	9	7	4	1	5	2
1	7	3	9	5	2	7	8
5	6	1	6	9	7	8	4
7	6	8	1	2	4	5	9
2	9	4	5	8	3	1	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Vietnam opens new international airport

HANOI, Vietnam (AFP) — Vietnam has opened a new international airport in the southern Mekong Delta, state media said on week-end.

The 150-million dollar Can Tho International Airport, built on 20,750 square metres (240,000 square feet) of land, will process up to five million passengers a year, Vietnam News Agency reported.

"The airport provides a big opportunity for Can Tho city in particular and the southwestern area in general to make fast and sustainable development and helps facilitate air travel in the region," Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said at the inauguration.

The airport is expected to be a significant boost to the Mekong delta's economy, as well as improving defence, security and international integration, the agency said.

Estonia rings in 2011 as 17th eurozone member

TALLINN, Estonia (AFP) — Estonia woke up to both a New Year and a new currency as it became the first ex-Soviet state to adopt the euro at midnight and the 17th member of the eurozone, a bloc plagued by debt woes.

As a spectacular fireworks show lit up the sky over Tallinn, the 2004 EU entrant -- which broke free from the

crumbling Soviet Union in 1991 -- bade a reluctant farewell to its kroon, adopted in 1992 to replace the Soviet ruble.

At the stroke of midnight, Estonia's centre-right Prime Minister Andrus Ansip symbolically withdrew a crisp new euro banknote from a bank machine at the national opera as onlookers braved subzero temperatures.

"That's one small step for the eurozone and one giant leap for Estonia," Ansip said.

"Estonia is the poorest country in the eurozone, so we have a lot of things to do also now after the goal of reaching the eurozone has been accomplished," he added.

Pipeline begins supplying oil from Russia to China

BEIJING, China (AFP) — The first oil pipeline between Russia and China, feted as a mark of growing ties between the world's biggest oil producer and its biggest energy consumer, started operation, state media said.

Oil began flowing through the pipeline that links Siberia with refineries in the northeastern Chinese city of Daqing, after two months of testing, according to the Xinhua news agency.

It can carry 30 million tons of oil each year.

Britain set for rocky economic ride in 2011

LONDON (AFP) — An austere tax increase, huge cuts in state spending and rising unemployment are all set to be unleashed on Britain in 2011, risking widespread strike action by disgruntled workers.

The Conservative-Liberal coalition led by Prime Minister David Cameron insists on the need to tighten government spending to quickly slash the country's record public deficit inherited from the previous administration.

"The national interest dictates that we do the right thing, which is to act, not the easy thing, which would be to delay," Cameron said in his New Year's message. "In doing so, we should be clear: Britain has a really bright future to look forward to."

But the opposition Labour party says the government is putting at risk the country's fragile recovery from recession by rushing to reduce a deficit of around 150 billion pounds (174 billion euros, 231 billion dollars).

Union leaders are warning the cuts will spark massive strikes in the coming months.

"We can expect to see workers in both public and private sectors out on the picket lines fighting for jobs and against savage attacks on pensions and standards of living," warned

Bob Crow, the militant head of the RMT transport union.

Britain's austerity drive in 2011 kicks off in earnest this week, when its rate of VAT, or sales tax on goods and services, jumps to 20 percent from 17.5 percent.

Ahead of the increase, shoppers have been busy in the post-Christmas sales period snapping up big-ticket items such as televisions.

Department store John Lewis, a key indicator of the country's retail sector strength, said it had enjoyed record takings last week.

"Consumers in general face serious headwinds and uncertainties so will see the sales as a time to make purchases that they could increasingly struggle to make in 2011," said Howard Archer, chief European economist at IHS Global Insight research group. "The fact that VAT will rise... increases the attractiveness of the sales, particularly for big-ticket items."

The government, which was formed in May after an inconclusive general election, expects 330,000 jobs to be shed in Britain's public sector over the next four years under a cost-cutting drive totalling 81 billion pounds.

It comes against a background of weaker-than-ex-

pected economic growth, with British gross domestic product (GDP) climbing by only 0.7 percent in the third quarter, recent official data showed.

Meanwhile the number of unemployed in Britain has hit 2.5 million and is expected to rise further in 2011.

Elsewhere, the Bank of England is this year expected to begin raising its key interest rate from a record-low level of 0.50 percent to combat higher inflation.

The CBI, Britain's main business body and which backs the government's belt-tightening, acknowledged that the country's economy faces a tough 2011 due to the spending cuts, VAT hike and worries about eurozone debt.

"However, the latest CBI forecasts, which are pretty much in line with the consensus view, suggest that growth in private sector investment and trade will start to pick up in the second half of the year, and continue into 2012," said CBI head Richard Lambert.

"That would bring GDP growth of 2 percent in 2011 and 2.4 percent the year after -- not much to shout about, perhaps, at this stage of a recovery, but enough to keep unemployment under control and the public finances on track."

Merkel must get Germans to back sound EU

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) — The debt crisis has strengthened Germany's hand in Europe, but Chancellor Angela Merkel will have a tough time convincing voters that leadership might also mean digging deep for additional aid.

"So far, people do not see the costs that might be associated with what politicians have agreed to, namely some nation states underwriting the debt of others," Barclays Capital economist Thorsten Polleit told AFP.

"It is an open question whether the crisis is over or whether we are just in the eye of the storm."

As the de facto eurozone

paymaster, Merkel has imposed strict aid conditions and insisted member countries coordinate economic policies to parry future crises.

But she must still persuade voters that Germany cannot turn its back on Europe even if it means contributing to a permanent rescue fund.

"A unified Europe is the guarantor of our peace and freedom. The euro forms the basis of our prosperity," she stressed in her New Year's address. "Germany needs Europe and our common currency, for our own well-being and also to overcome big challenges worldwide."

But the crisis' final cost is not known and perpetual

change generated by the eurozone project has unsettled many Germans already, psychologist Monika Mueller said.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	R	A	F	L	E	D	D	A	R	E		
C	A	P	L	O	R	E	E	V	I	L		
T	H	E	J	U	N	G	L	E	B	O	O	K
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R	A	S	P		J	A	N	E	E	Y	R	
I	R	E		P	E	L	T	S		A	O	K
M	E	L	V	I	L	L	E		A	L	O	E
			O	N	L			T	R	E	K	S
S	P	E	L	T		S	R	O				
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A	L	A	E		I	R	O	N		S	E	A
D	E	N	Y		T	I	E	D		M	O	M

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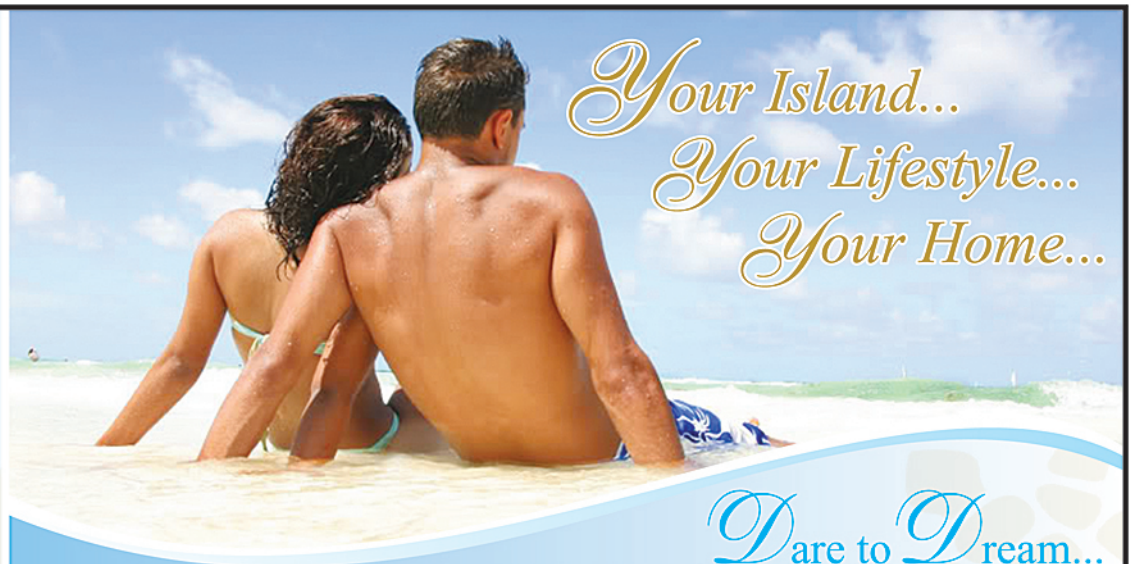
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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn

their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental

program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every

way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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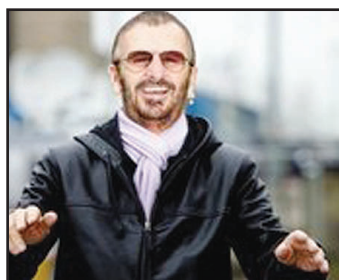
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British government steps in to save Beatle's home



Former Beatle Ringo Starr

LONDON, England (AFP) — The British government has stepped in to stop Beatles legend Ringo Starr's birthplace from being bulldozed.

Housing Minister Grant Shapps has written to Liverpool City Council urging a temporary reprieve for 9 Madryn Street, in the Dingle district, which is scheduled for demolition.

The childhood homes of bandmates John Lennon and

Paul McCartney are popular tourist attractions in the north-west English city, run by the National Trust, which looks after many of Britain's most treasured buildings and beauty spots.

Liverpool City Council says 445 pre-1919 terraced houses in Dingle are "beyond economic repair" and has decided to tear them down. The decision was taken in August but a planning committee is to discuss the details this month.

Shapps said he wanted viable local proposals to preserve Starr's childhood home to be given full consideration and said the people of Liverpool should have the final decision.

"Any regeneration project will generate strong feelings," he wrote. "But when what



9 Madryn Street-Liverpool

many people consider to be a culturally important building - such as the birthplace of the drummer in the world's most famous band -- is at risk then feelings are going to be even stronger.

"That is why, before a single bulldozer rumbles along Madryn Street, I want to ensure that every option has been considered."

Talk show queen Oprah gets royal help on OWN channel



CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) — Talk show diva Oprah Winfrey launched her OWN cable network last week-end, unveiling a packed program line-up featuring celebrity hosts such as British duchess Sarah Ferguson and country singer Shania Twain.

"Happy New Year everybody and welcome to OWN," Oprah said as she officially launched her high-stakes, 24-hour seven-day-a-week television venture at midday (1700 GMT).

"This is a very exciting day for me kicking off the next chapter of my life with all of you. Yes, the Oprah Winfrey Network is finally on the air."

Among the new programs to be aired on the channel are "Finding Sarah" hosted by Britain's Duchess of York and "Why Not?" with Grammy-award winning Canadian diva Shania Twain, who says she has lost her confidence and ability to sing.

"It hurts. Extremely damaged. During 25 years of public life, I sort of think I got lost as to where the actual, real Sarah is," said Ferguson, the former wife of Prince Andrew, in a preview of her show.

But while Winfrey's comfy

couches have launched scores of careers, it's unclear if her magic touch can carry an entire network. "I wanted to build a network which empowers you, the viewer, to turn your dreams into reality," Oprah said, as she also announced a reality show giving 10 finalists out of 15,000 applicants the chance to host their own TV show.

Discovery Networks is reportedly sinking 189 million dollars into the joint venture, which replaces Discovery Health and will reach nearly 80 million homes.

The network will offer 600 hours of original fare in its first year along with movies, reruns of the Dr Phil show and several shows previously aired on Discovery Health.

"I wanted to take ideals of great television, that we've established on the Oprah show and bring them to you, through a variety of new shows 24/7."

But analysts remained uncertain whether despite Oprah's phenomenal fan base the channel could establish itself in the competitive world of network television.

"And the fact that she'll still be on her syndicated show will probably be confusing to some people."

Oprah has acknowledged in a recent interview with the Wall Street Journal that it may take time to translate the success of a show she'd done 140 times a year into a network which airs 24 hours a day.

Twain said her show will feature her interviews with people who have gone through "big emotional crises, deep life struggles" as she seeks to learn lessons on how to rebuild her life and career.

Another tear-jerking reality show will star American actor Ryan O'Neal and his daughter, Tatum, as they struggle to repair their damaged and tempestuous relationship.

The network has also developed a reality show where children kidnap their workaholic parents; two cooking shows; a show where families get rid of their clutter, as well as a frank talk show about sex.

Oprah also unveiled a new series called Master Class in which she says she wants to get "inside the minds of the world's greatest thinkers" with profiles of guests such as journalist Diane Sawyer, rapper Jay-Z, writer Maya Angelou, and former US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice.

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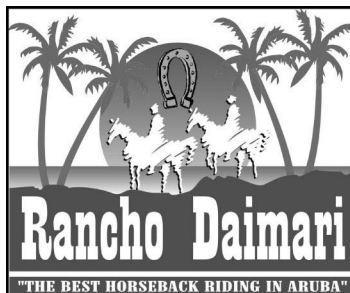
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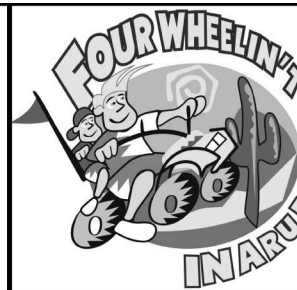
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Nadal rekindles Federer rivalry in Doha



DOHA (AFP) - World num-
ber one Nadal

new coach Paul Annacone, is

ber one Rafael Nadal will begin the new season which starts at the Qatar Open here today on a high after beating rival Roger Federer in the final of the Mubadala World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi this weekend.

The Spaniard arrives in Doha head and shoulders above the rest of field, more than 3,000 points ahead of world number two Federer and with three of the last four Grand Slam titles under his belt.

His hopes of winning the Qatar title for the first time have been boosted by the 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3) win over the Swiss in the final of the Abu Dhabi exhibition match on Saturday.

And the two are set to meet again next week when they are the top two seeds at the Qatar Open, which marks the start of the new season.

"For both of us, these are the first matches of the season. So it is special for us," said Nadal after his win in Abu Dhabi.

Federer, who has come into the new year with a fresh mindset as he works with

bidding for his third title in Doha after winning back-to-back trophies in 2005 and 2006.

"Rafael and myself must have played so many times and so many times it has come down to a few shots here and there. He is an amazing shot-maker. Me as well, but today he got the better of me," said Federer.

Federer appointed Annacone, who steered Pete Sampras to nine of his 14 Grand Slam titles, after losing his Wimbledon title, as he bids to regain the world number one ranking he once held for a record 237 consecutive weeks.

The next few days may offer insights into just how likely that is. Since Annacone's arrival there have been signs that Federer is working on countering fractional loss of speed as he moves through his 30th year.

He has been trying to rein-vigorate his backhand, achieve a more consistent serve, produce crisper ground-strokes, and most crucially, generate an appetite for attacking opponents' sec-

ond serves more forcefully.

How superb Federer becomes when he achieves all these things was illustrated by his meeting with Nadal at the ATP World Tour finals five weeks ago in London where he concluded the season with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win.

"I think in the beginning he was unplayable," said Nadal. "He played unbelievable all week. When he's playing like this, it's very difficult to stop him."

Nadal is happy in returning to Doha, which he believes helped him turn a corner after he had gone without a title for 11 months last year.

"In Doha last year was probably one of the best sets of my career, the first set against (Nikolay) Davydenko," Nadal said, referring to an incredible final in which he took that set 6-0, held two match points, and still lost to the Russian.

As for the pressure of being the hot favourite, Nadal said: "It doesn't make any difference if I have won three Grand Slams or if I won one or two. It's in the past."

The two legends met only twice last year, have not contested a Grand Slam final for two years, and have yet to meet in a Doha final. All this should add tension to the possibility of it happening on January 8.

However, world number three Davydenko beat both last year on his way to the title.

The Russian has struggled with a wrist injury last season and is now seeded only fourth, behind France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who is making his debut in Doha, hoping to be fully fit after his 2010 campaign marred by a knee injury.

Seeds:

Rafael Nadal (ESP x1)
Roger Federer (SUI x2)
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA x3)
Nikolay Davydenko (RUS x4)
Ernest Gulbis (LAT x5)
Viktor Troicki (SRB x6)
Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (ESP x7)
Philipp Kohlschreiber (GER x8)

Sharapova serves notice of return to the top

AUCKLAND (AFP) - Three-time grand slam winner Maria Sharapova takes another step in her bid to regain her former glory when she starts as top seed in the Auckland Classic women's tennis tournament here on Monday.

It has been a long journey back for the Russian former world number one who slumped as low as 126 during the past two years because of a shoulder injury.

The Auckland tournament, a forerunner to the first slam of the year in Australia, has drawn one of its strongest fields.

In addition to Sharapova, the line up also includes another women's former number one Dinara Safina and a former number two and two-time grand slam winner Svetlana Kuznetsova as well as Yanina Wickmayer, a US Open semi-finalist.

But most interest is on Sharapova who sees regaining her once lethal serve as the key to improving on her current ranking of 18th in the world and has been concentrating on technique as her shoulder improved.

"I've had to change it a few times because of the shoulder and obviously that's not the best case scenario when you're in the middle of your career and you've had a great serve before."

The Russian star is confident she will get back to her best but it may take some time.

"I have come back from an awful lot, something that could have taken me away from the game. I am back on the court,



going well and I have to build on it little by little."

Sharapova opens in Auckland against 22-year-old Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro.

Defending Auckland champion Wickmayer is drawn to play Safina in the first round while Kuznetsova plays unseeded New Zealander Sacha Jones.

Wickmayer, ranked 23 in the world, said Safina, who has slipped to 63rd in the rankings, holds no fears for her.

"Safina is a great champion and had a couple of great years. I think it's the toughest (match) in the draw but I'm really looking forward to it. I think it will be a really good and exciting match," she said.

The Belgian is also not concerned that all the pre-tournament attention has been on the three Russian stars Sharapova, Safina and Kuznetsova.

"I have no problems with that. I'm just here to play my matches, not to be in front of the others."

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Year of opportunities for Tiger as he turns 35



ORLANDO, Florida (AFP) — Tiger Woods sent a message to his fans after celebrating his 35th birthday on Thursday, looking ahead to a year of new challenges and leaving behind a winless year of personal turmoil.

"Another successful trip completed around the sun! Thanks for all the well wishes," Woods posted on his Twitter account.

World number two Woods, who surrendered his top ranking to England's Lee

Westwood two months ago, was named Friday by the US PGA Tour website atop a list of the top 100 players to watch in 2011.

It's a position Woods has occupied for much of his career even before turning professional in 1996 at age 20, but one that carries special meaning given the meltdown of his life in the wake of a sex scandal that began 13 months ago.

Woods and wife Elin

Nordegren were divorced in August, nine months after revelations began about Woods's affairs with multiple mistresses. More than a dozen women claimed sexual relationships with the world's top golfer.

Several sponsors dropped Woods, who had become the first sportsman to reach one billion dollars in career endorsement and prize money. He became the punch line to jokes and took a five-month break from golf to cope with the situation.

Woods returned at the Masters in April and shared fourth, as he would at the US Open in June, but the disgraced superstar went winless for the year even as he began working on changes in his swing with new coach Sean Foley.

Regaining the clutch putting skills that once helped create an aura of golf invincibility also figures to be a major goal.

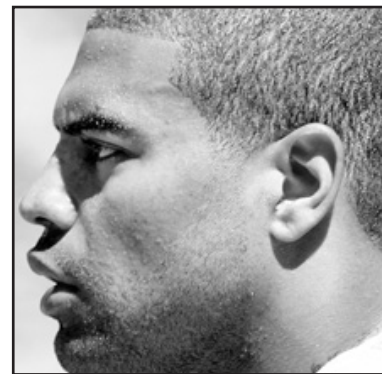
Woods, a 14-time major champion, continues to chase the all-time record of 18 major titles won by Jack Nicklaus.

That alone will make him the focus of a new golf season that begins next week but will not see Woods play for at least a month. He has confirmed plans to play in February's Dubai Desert Classic.

Golf fans and the extra audiences Woods attracted for his greatest challenges could rediscover why they were drawn to Woods in the first place as he tries to put aside his past and reclaim the world number one ranking.

Woods had owned the top spot for 281 weeks in a row before being toppled one week shy of 12 years atop the rankings for his career.

Bills sign veteran Merriman to new contract



not released by the National Football League team, but ESPN sports reported the deal is for two years.

The 26-year-old Merriman was claimed on waivers from the San Diego Chargers in November but has yet to get into a game for the Bills because of nagging calf and Achilles injuries.

The former first-overall pick in five years ago has not played since October 10.

In six seasons, Merriman has posted 231 tackles, 43 1/2 sacks and one interception with the Chargers.

BUFFALO (AFP) - The Buffalo Bills decided to give linebacker Shawne Merriman a second chance, signing him to a new contract on Saturday.

Terms of the contract were



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Blatter wants to create anti-corruption working group

GENEVA (AFP) - FIFA president Sepp Blatter says he intends to propose the creation of an anti-corruption working group when football's governing body holds its June congress in Zurich.

"I will propose this new working group at the start of the FIFA congress in Zurich," in June, Blatter told the Swiss paper *SonnagsZeitung*.

Blatter stressed that he wanted to "be sure there is no corruption within FIFA."

He added that although the exact remit of the working group had yet to be defined it

would contain "high-ranking personalities" from the world of sport, business, politics, society and culture - but he did not divulge any names.

Blatter said he did not intend to head up the group himself.

Last November, FIFA's ethics commission suspended two members of the body's executive committee amid media allegations of bribery in connection with the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, Russia and Qatar winning the right to stage the respective events.

Amla, Kallis blunt Indian attack

CAPE TOWN (AFP) - Hashim Amla and Jacques Kallis made contrasting half-centuries to blunt India's advantage after winning the toss on the first day of the third and final Test against South Africa at Newlands on Sunday.

South Africa were 232 for four at the end of a day which started under a heavily overcast sky, was twice interrupted by rain and bad light, and finished in bright sunshine.

With the series riding on the outcome of the match, Amla made 59 and Kallis 81 not out to leave Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni wondering whether he made the right decision in sending South Africa in on what looked an unusually green Newlands pitch.

India were on top early on when they dismissed both opening batsmen cheaply, with Graeme Smith falling for six and Alviro Petersen for 21.

But Amla batted aggressively as he and Kallis put on 72 for the third wicket before Kallis had partnerships of 58 with AB de Villiers (26) and an unbeaten 68 with Ashwell Prince (28 not out).

With the weather expected to be fine for the rest of the match after two days of unseasonal rain, India's advance

was slight at best on a pitch where it usually pays to bat first.

Amla played a sparkling

innings in making 59 off 80 balls with eight fours and a pulled six off Sreesanth which raised his half-century.

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